

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Your topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Context	Example: Great Chicago Fire	Your topic
<p><b>Big Picture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what outside people, ideas or events were going on to influence your topic?</li> <li>• What is happening around the city, region, country, world in relation to your topic?</li> <li>• what else does your viewer need to understand the background of your topic?</li> <li>• What's the origin of your topic? How did it all get started?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Who settled Chicago?</i></li> <li>• <i>What were Chicago's buildings made of in the 1870s?</i></li> <li>• <i>Were there a lot of fires in cities in the 1870s?</i></li> <li>• <i>How many people were killed in Chicago fires before the Great Fire?</i></li> <li>• <i>Did Chicago have a fire department? When did it start? How effective was it?</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Right before</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are the main players?</li> <li>• How are they preparing for the events of this topic?</li> <li>• What events lead up to or cause the main event?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What types of people lived in the areas around the Great Chicago Fire?</i></li> <li>• <i>What made Chicago vulnerable to such a big fire?</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Main event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happened?</li> <li>• How and why?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Where and how did the fire start?</i></li> <li>• <i>How far did it spread?</i></li> <li>• <i>How many were killed as a result of the fire? How much property was destroyed?</i></li> <li>• <i>How long did the fire last?</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Right after</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some positive reactions to the event? By whom?</li> <li>• What are some negative reactions to this event? By whom?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Who was blamed for the fire?</i></li> <li>• <i>How did people start to rebuild afterward?</i></li> <li>• <i>Were people insured for their losses?</i></li> <li>• <i>Did the city or state or federal government help with recovery?</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Long after</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are things different today because of the topic?</li> <li>• Did this topic influence other historical events, people or ideas?</li> <li>• Why is this topic important in history?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How did buildings and neighborhoods change to prevent this happening again?</i></li> <li>• <i>Has there ever been another disaster in Chicago as bad as the Great Fire?</i></li> <li>• <i>Did the Fire benefit Chicago in any way? How?</i></li> <li>• <i>How has the response to other disasters been different or better than the response to the fire? What did Chicago learn?</i></li> </ul>	